

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 05542 01 OF 02 241639Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-06 COME-00
TRSE-00 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /111 W
-----121680 241725Z /45

R 241600Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1579
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 5542

FODAG

PARIS FOR UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, OCON
SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP ROME (GGR)

1. SUMMARY: ROME GENEVA GROUP EFFORT TO ENGAGE DG IN AREA OF BUDGET METHODOLOGY AND EVALUATION IS EXPERIENCING DELAYS ATTRIBUTABLE BOTH TO SCHEDULING PROBLEMS AND APPARENT APPREHENSIONS ON DG'S PART ABOUT INVASION OF HIS TURF. JUDGING BY COMMENTS OF ADG WEST TO BAKER MARCH 22, HOWEVER, ACTIONS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY DG APPEAR COMPATIBLE IN THESE AREAS WITH OUR INTERESTS. WE PLAN TO REPORT BACK TO GENEVA GROUP APRIL 3 ON CONVERSATION WITH WEST WITH VIEW TO SOME ALTERATION IN OUR APPROACH TO DG, NOW PROPOSED BY HIM FOR APRIL 17. END SUMMARY.

2. UK PERMREP REPORTED MARCH 22 AS FOLLOWS ON REPORTS TO GET GG CO-CHAIRMEN AN APPOINTMENT WITH DG. DG HAD DECIDED NOT TO RECIEVE US WEEK OF MARCH 20, HAVING RETURNED TO OFFICE MARCH 22 AND 24 BEING HOLIDAY. HE OFFERED MARCH 30 WHICH WAS DECLINED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 05542 01 OF 02 241639Z

BECAUSE OF PLANNED ABSENCE OF BAKER ON LEAVE AND MEDICAL CONSULTATION. HE DECLINED OUR COUNTER-PROPOSAL OF APRIL 3, SINCE THAT WAS WEEK OF LONDON ACC AND COUNTER-OFFERED APRIL 13 AND 14. GGR CO-CHAIRMEN ACCEPTED LATTER TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH IFAD, BUT DG THEN SWITCHED TO APRIL 17.

3. BAKER PHONED WEST MARCH 21 BEFORE THIS DELAY KNOWN TO APPRISE

HIM OF INTENDED CALL BY GGR CO-CHAIRMEN ON DG. WEST INVITED BAKER TO LUNCHEON DISCUSSION MARCH 22 IN WHICH HE NOTED THAT DG, APPRISED OF GGR INITIATIVE, HAD SOMEWHAT IRATELY REQUESTED VARIOUS PAPERS DETAILING HIS CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY OVER BUDGETARY PROCESS. WEST FELT, THEREFORE, THAT EFFORT TO OBTAIN DG'S BLESSING FOR A CONTINUING DIALOGUE ON BUDGETARY PROCESS WOULD MEET RESISTENCE. AT SAME TIME, WEST OFFERED TO MEET WITH INTERESTED GGR MEMBERS ON BUDGETARY METHODOLOGY, NOTING THAT HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN ENGAGED IN CCAQ BUDGET HARMONIZATION EFFORT AND HAD GONE INTO DETAIL WITH ACABQ CHAIRMAN ON FAO METHODS OF CALCULATING FUTURE IMPACT OF INFLATION AND EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATION. (COMMENT: WEST OFFER ON THIS SEEMED MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO AVOID FRUITLESS DEADLOCK WITH DG. HE MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN "FORMAL" SESSIONS WITH GGR AS WHOLE, WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD REQUIRE DG APPROVAL, AND INFORMAL EXCHANGES WITH INTERESTED MEMBERS WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD NOT. THIS LATTER FORM STRIKES US AS MORE USEFUL ANYWAY, AND WE ARE SUGGESTING GGR SUB-COMMITTEE ON FINANCE PREPARE ITSELF FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS).

4. WEST NOTED FURTHER THAT DG, WHOM HE HAD BRIEFED RE ACTION OF WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD, HAD RECENTLY INFORMED ADG'S NOT TO EXPECT TO GET HIS APPROVAL OF SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THEIR PROGRAM BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 1980-81. WEST'S ADVICE IN THIS AREA WAS THAT DG COULD MORE READILY COPE WITH A GGR RECOMMENDED REAL PROGRAM GROWTH LIMIT THAN WITH A GGR EFFORT TO GET INSIDE OF AND "HELP" DG WITH HIS JEALOUSLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 05542 01 OF 02 241639Z

GUARDED FUDGET-FORMING PROCESSES. (COMMENT: FOREGOING REMARKS CLEARLY INTENDED TO SUGGEST THAT DG HAD TAKEN SERIOUSLY GG POSITION ANNOUNCED AT FAO CONFERENCE AND ITS SEQUEL IN WHO AND WOULD LISTEN TO AN REISTER ANY ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC RECOMMENDED LIMITS. IT MAY ALSO FIT WITH SPECULATION THAT DG WILL TRY TO HOLD DOWN PROGRAM GROWTH IN 1980-81 BUT LET IT RISE FOR 1982-83 BUDGET WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED IN 1981 BY SAME FAO CONFERENCE WHICH WILL HAVE TO ELECT A DG FOR 1982-88.

5. IN DISCUSSION OF EVALUATION WEST SAID THAT HIS DESIGN FOR SELF-EVALUATION SYSTEM ACROSS BOARD IN FAO HAD NOT YET BEEN PROMULGATED AS NOT ALL COMMENTS IN ON HIS INITIAL JANUARY DRAFT. THEREFORE, IT WAS DOUBTFUL THAT RESPONSES TO THIS DESIGN WOULD BE ABLE TO AFFECT PRESENTATIONS TO PROGRAM COMMITTEE (PC). BESIDES, ACCORDING TO WEST, FAO COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE HAD OPINED (BASED ON PC RECOMMENDATIONS DURING PHILLIPS CHAIRMANSHIP) THAT REVIEW OF PROGRAMS IN PC NOT INTENDED TO BE EVALUATIVE. BAKER QUERIED WHAT PURPOSE REVIEW WOULD SERVE IF ONE COULD NOT POSE QUESTIONS TO PROGRAM AND SUB-PROGRAM DIRECTORS OF TYPE NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH EVALUATION. WEST RESPONDED THAT ANY PC MEMBER COULD DO THIS BUT THAT WOULD BE HIS BUSINESS NOT BUSINESS OF GGR. BAKER REOPENED THAT ALL FAO MEMBERS SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN WHAT-

EVER LIGHT PC COULD THROW FOR BENEFIT OF COUNCIL ON PROGRAMS IT
REVIEWS AND IT SEEMED QUITE NORMAL FOR GGR TO ENCOURAGE APPLICA-
TION OF EVALUATION TECHNIQUES TO FAO'S EXISTING REVIEW PROCESSES.
WEST CONLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE CLOSER TO INTERNAL FAO REALITY
IF POINT WERE MADE IN CONNECTION WITH NOVEMBER COUNCIL RATHER
THAN SPRING PC. (COMMENT: CO-CHAIRMAN WILL REVIEW TALKING
POINTS WITH GGR APRIL 3 IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING. MEANTIME WOULD
WELCOME COMMENTS ON WEST'S INTERPRETATION OF PC'S REVIEW ROLE).

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 05542 02 OF 02 241646Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-06 COME-00
TRSE-00 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /111 W
-----121736 241726Z /45

R 241600Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1580
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 5542

6. BASED ON HIS VARIOUS OTHER REMARKS, WEST (A) SATISFIED WITH
DIRECTION OF CCAQ BUDGET HARMONIZATION EFFORT BUT OPPOSED
TO UN ESA ASSERTION OF COMPETENCE IN REGARD TO REVIEW OF CCAQ
PROPOSALS IN WAKE RESTRUCTURING; (B) STILL UPSET AT PROSPECT OF
LOWERED UNDP OVERHEAD PAYMENTS, CLAIMING THAT RESULT OF THIS
WOULD BE U.S. SUPPORT THROUGH REGULAR BUDGET, OF TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROJECT OVERHEAD, NOT ONLY OF UNDP BUT OF TRUST FUND
ACTIVITIES. HE IMPLIED THAT BUDGETTING FOR 1980-81 WOULD
NATURALLY HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF ANY REDUCTION OR EXPECTED
REDUCTION OF UNDP OVERHEAD PAYMENT; (C) HIGHLY CRITICAL OF
RESTRUCTURING; (D) ANNOYED THAT SAME COST-CONSCIOUS APPROACH
AS BEING APPLIED TO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES NOT BEING IN HIS
OPINION, APPLIED TO UNDP; (E) CERTAIN THAT JIU DRAFT REPORT
ON EXERTS WILL BE ALTERED AS A RESULT OF WIDESPREAD CRITIQUES.
COMMENT: WEST APPEARS INCREASINLY IN THE ROLE OF A FIRE-
FIGHTER TRYING TO DAMPEN OR PREVENT CONFLAGRATIONS BETWEEN
DG-UNDP, DG-UN SYSTEM, AND DG-GGR, WE BELIEVE HE AWARE THAT
ANY DG-GGR FLAMES COULD BURN DG WORSE THAN US.
GARDNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME05542
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780130-0804
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780328/aaaaaxie.tel
Line Count: 169
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a8ed37be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3211616
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENEVA GROUP ROME (GGR)
TAGS: AORG, OCON
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a8ed37be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014